

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 (ISO) W

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R 041454Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6379

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02951

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON PORTUGAL

REF: STATE 22603 AND 23905

1. WE RAISED SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WITH QUAI DEPUTY
DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE GELADE FEBRUARY 3. WHILE UNDER-
STANDING OUR CONCERN ABOUT PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS, HE
SAID HE WAS PERPLEXED BY THE QUESTION OF WHAT OUTSIDERS
MIGHT DO EFFECTIVELY TO SUPPORT PORTUGUESE MODERATES.
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SUCH AS THAT GIVEN BY THE U.S. IS
USEFUL, HE SAID, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE EUROPEAN COM-
MUNITY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER IMMEDIATE HELP.
CURRENT EC EFFORTS ARE CONCENTRATED ON REVISING THE
ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT, A LONG-TERM PROPOSITION HAVING
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LITTLE EFFECT ON PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS. MORAL SUPPORT,

SUCH AS GISCARD'S RECEIVING SOARES RECENTLY ON LESS THAN 24 HOURS' NOTICE, IS ABOUT ALL THAT CAN BE GIVEN.

2. GELADE SAID THAT HE HOPES HE IS NOT BEING NAIVELY OPTIMISTIC IN BELIEVING THAT THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY MAY NOT BE LOST IN PORTUGAL, ALTHOUGH THE MOB ACTION AT OPORTO AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE RAISED DOUBTS. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE MILITARY CONTROLS THE SITUATION, BUT IT IS NOT YET EVIDENT HOW THE STRUGGLE FOR INFLUENCE WITHIN THE MILITARY WILL BE RESOLVED. FOR THAT MATTER, HE CONTINUED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT "LEFT" MEANS AMONG THE MILITARY; IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL THOSE WHO ARE SO LABELED DO NOT SHARE THE SAME VIEWPOINT NOR SUPPORT THE STALINIST COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. GELADE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO WATCH THE OUTCOME OF THE REPORTED OFFER BY THE AFM TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO CONDUCT THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WITHOUT VIOLENCE. WHILE THE MILITARY HAD APPEARED TO CONDONE, IF NOT ACTUALLY SUPPORT, VIOLENT ACTION AT OPORTO, IF THE AFM'S LATEST OFFER IS SERIOUS, IT MIGHT INDICATE THAT THE MILITARY HAVE BACKED OFF FROM THEIR EARLIER POSITION AND THAT THEY NOW SEE THE DANGERS OF MOB ACTION FOR THE NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES. ANOTHER SIGN THAT THE MILITARY MAY BE WARY OF THE COMMUNISTS, GELADE SAID, WAS THE AFM'S REFUSAL (AS REPORTED TO GISCARD BY SOARES) TO KEEP 20 PERCENT OF THE SEATS IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR ITSELF, AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMUNISTS. HOWEVER, GELADE ADMITTED, IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT THE AFM WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERNS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, ALTHOUGH THE REPORTED AFM OFFER TO THE PARTIES MAY HAVE BEEN A REACTION TO SOARES' SUGGESTION THAT THE AFM AND THE PARTIES SIGN A "CONTRACT" FOR THE ELECTIONS. THE BASIC QUESTION, GELADE CONCLUDED, IS WHETHER THE AFM WILL SUPPORT THE COMMUNISTS OR SEEK TO ACHIEVE BALANCE AMONG THE PARTIES.
RUSH

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